

FANNIE KAUTZ.

MAY 25, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KERR, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2117.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred Senate bill 2117 and House bill 1219, have examined the same and all the evidence and after most careful examination and consideration respectfully report:

The Senate act proposes to increase from \$30 to \$50 per month the pension of Mrs. Fannie Kautz, of Cincinnati, Ohio, widow of August V. Kautz, late major-general, United States Volunteers, and brigadier-general, Regular Army United States. and also a private, United States Volunteers, in the war with Mexico.

This committee has been extremely conservative in its action when called upon to increase the pension of the widow of a general officer and will continue to so act when increase is asked solely on the ground of the rank of the officer in question. Your committee is of the opinion that necessity, not rank, should control in these matters.

Is the increase required for the proper and necessary support and maintenance of the widow in a respectable manner among her friends and acquaintances? should be the inquiry. This question being answered in the affirmative, the remaining question is one of amount.

In granting increases in such cases your committee early determined that in the case of the widows of general officers it would not increase beyond \$30 per month where the death of the officer was not due to disabilities incurred in the service, nor beyond \$50 per month where death was caused by wounds received or disabilities incurred in the service of the Government of the United States.

In this case it has been judicially adjudged and determined, both legally and medically, that Gen. August V. Kautz died from disabilities incurred in the service. This widow, Fannie Kautz, is drawing \$30 per month for that reason.

The remaining question is this: Is \$30 per month sufficient for the purpose mentioned? Your committee find that it is not, and therefore have unanimously agreed to report the Senate bill favorably.

August V. Kautz enlisted June 8, 1846, at the age of 18 years, and served as a private in Company G, First Ohio Volunteer Infantry, until the close of the war with Mexico. He was then appointed cadet at West Point on account of his patriotism, bravery, and mental powers. He graduated with honor and served in the Indian wars until the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, when he at once entered on active service in the field, and developed such remarkable capabilities and worth that he rose to the rank of brigadier-general in the Regular Army and major-general of volunteers. He took part in scores of battles and was retired from active service, by reason of age and operation of law, January 5, 1892, and died September 4, 1895, at the age of 67 years.

He had no opportunity to save money or accumulate a fortune. He gave his entire life and energies to the service of his country and died poor. The little money he had saved was invested in wild Western lands, entirely unproductive, and his widow has been unable to pay the taxes thereon.

The widow and one minor child, a daughter over 16 (so that no pension is drawn on her account), are dependent on the \$30 per month for their support. The daughter does what she can, as does the mother, but they are dependent largely on the hospitality of friends.

This widow might go into some rural place and exist on the \$30 per month, but she would be compelled to leave her child, her friends, and acquaintances and live among strangers.

As an increase to \$50 per month is necessary to afford this widow and her infant daughter a reasonable subsistence, the bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

Line 7, after "Army," insert "and pay her a pension."

Amend the title so as to read: "An act granting an increase of pension to Fannie Kautz."